

Message Text

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ORIGIN ARA-14

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DRAFTED BY USOAS:MDION:BC
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USOAS - AMB. MCGEE

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TO ALL AMERICAN REPUBLIC DIPLOMATIC POSTS PRIORITY

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: OAS, UY

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR MCGEE'S STATEMENT ON JANUARY 31

1. FOLLOWING IS OFFICIAL TEXT OF EXTEMPORANEOUS STATEMENT
MADE BY AMBASSADOR GALE MCGEE FOLLOWING JANUARY 31 VOTE ON
URUGUAY INVITATION TO VIII OASGA. US JOINED PANAMA AND
VENEZUELA IN VOTING NO. 10 OTHER COUNTRIES ABSTAINED.
GENERAL COMMITTEE REJECTED OFFER 13-12.

QUOTE MR. CHAIRMAN, THIS IS A VERY SOBERING PERSONAL
MOMENT FOR ME. I WANT TO MAKE IT CLEAR THAT MY GOVERNMENT'S
'NO' VOTE WAS PREMISED ON ONLY ONE BASIC CONSIDERATION AND
THAT WAS THE INTEGRITY OF A FUNDAMENTAL INSTITUTION IN THE
OAS. ALL OF US ASPIRE TO THE COOPERATION, THE GOOD WILL,
AND THE RESPECT OF ALL OF OUR MEMBERS; BUT OUR ORGANIZATION
CAN BE NO STRONGER THAN OUR RESPECT FOR ITS BASIC INSTITU-
TIONS, AND THIS IS THE REAL POINT AT ISSUE. BECAUSE OF
DIFFICULTIES AND DISAGREEMENTS, DIFFERENCES OF UNDERSTAND-
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INGS ON HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION, AND
LIKEWISE BECAUSE OF THE PUBLIC ACTIONS ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN
THE ORGANIZATION OF AMERICAN STATES, WE FELT THAT THIS WAS
AN ESPECIALLY AWKWARD MOMENT TO BE RESOLVING THE VERY
GENEROUS GESTURE TO HOST OUR GENERAL ASSEMBLY JUXTAPOSED
WITH THE HOST GOVERNMENT'S STAND ON HUMAN RIGHTS. SOME DAY

THE RECORD WILL SHOW THAT EVERY HUMAN EFFORT WAS MADE BY
MANY, MANY IN THIS ORGANIZATION TO STRIVE TO RESOLVE THAT
QUESTION, AND I GUESS THE SIMPLEST WAY TO PUT IT IS THAT
TIME RAN OUT. I THINK THE RECORD OF THAT EFFORT SHOULD
ALSO SHOW THAT THE SPIRIT AMONG ALL GROUPS TO PROCEED
FORWARD, NOT BACKWARD--TO LOOK AHEAD RATHER THAN TO RAKE
OVER THE PAST--MUST REMAIN OUR HALLMARK. I AM CONFIDENT,
WITH THAT KIND OF AN UNDERSTANDING, THAT THE GOOD RELATIONS
OF ALL WILL PERMIT US TO PROFIT FROM THE IMPASSE WE HAVE
ALL EXPERIENCED, TO LEARN FROM THIS EXPERIENCE, AND, PER-
HAPS, AS A GENERAL GROUP, TO BE A LITTLE WISER DOWN THE
ROAD AHEAD. THANK YOU, MR. CHAIRMAN. UNQUOTE. VANCE

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